

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/944,598

Examiner

Javid A. Amini

Applicant(s)

SATO ET AL.

Art Unit

2628

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 10/05/2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 6-8, 17-26, the new renumbered claims are 1-13.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 09/256,368.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date <u>June 27 2007</u> | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

Claims 1-5, 9-16 are cancelled.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 6-8, 17-26 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

None of the prior art, either singularly or in combination, teach or fairly suggest a multidimensional lookup table producing means for producing a multidimensional lookup table by using an identifier to select a table development method suitable for color characteristics associated with a device producing the image data, the multidimensional lookup table being produced from a separate lookup table having only color characteristic points representing the supplied image data, the color characteristic points representing a relationship between a first point and a final point and any points in between the supplied image data and output image data; and multidimensional lookup table compression means for compressing the multidimensional lookup table, as recited in the independent claims 6 and 7; or a multidimensional lookup table producer for producing a multidimensional lookup table from a separate lookup table having only color characteristic points representing a supplied image data; and a compressor for compressing the multidimensional lookup table, wherein the color characteristic description apparatus outputs color characteristic data, which includes the compressed multidimensional lookup table and an identifier which is an element of the characteristic data, for identifying a restoring method for restoring the compressed multidimensional lookup table and a repairing method, as recited in the independent claim 17; or producing a multidimensional lookup table in a color characteristic description apparatus by using an identifier to select a table development method suitable for color characteristics associated with a digital camera, the multidimensional

lookup table being produced from outputting a color characteristic data from the color characteristic description apparatus, the color characteristic data including the compressed multidimensional lookup table and an identifier which is an element of the characteristic data, for identifying a restoring method for restoring the compressed multidimensional lookup table, as recited in independent claim 22.

The references of record, US 5,809,213 discloses color reproduction systems and more particularly to methods and apparatus for color correction in color reproduction systems, and US 6,141,450 teaches a compression device in which a gray scale image is converted by a halftoning process into a binary image. A predicted image is obtained from the binary image using an algorithm and multitable lookup methods. The input gray scale image is then compared to the predicted image and the difference is encoded. This creates an enhanced layer. Inverse half toning is used to recover the original gray scale image from the distorted half tone images, but fail to teach or fairly suggest the above limitation combination as recited in independent claims 6, 7, 17, and 22.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

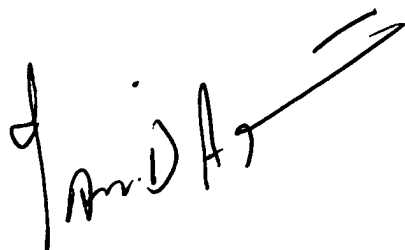
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Javid A. Amini whose telephone number is 571-272-7654. The examiner can normally be reached on 8-4pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kee Tung can be reached on 571-272-7794. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Javid A Amini
Examiner
Art Unit 2628

J.A.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Javid Amini', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.